REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the final Office Action mailed November 26, 2003. Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is presents amendments necessitated by the Office Action. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 16-17, 23-24 and 29 were amended to correct the spelling of "norbornene," and recite that the compressed layer is obtained by compressing the layer containing the functional (or conductive) particles together with the support. No new matter was added. Claims 1-3, 16-18, 21-26, 28-30 and 33-34 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 29 being independent.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 16-17, 23-24 and 29 were objected to for the misspelling of "norbornene." This has been corrected. Claim 16 was amended for idiomatic English. Withdrawal of these objections is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 16-18, 21-26, 28-30 and 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,411,792 to Yokinobu et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites a functional film comprising a support and a compressed layer of functional fine particles on the support, said compressed layer obtained by compressing a layer containing the functional fine particles that is formed by application onto the support with a compression force of at least 44 N/mm^2 together with the support, at a temperature below a glass transition temperature

of said support, said functional film being selected from the group consisting of a magnetic film, a ferromagnetic film, a dielectric film, a ferroelectric film, an electrochromic film, an electroluminescent film, an insulating film, a light-absorbing film, a light selecting absorbing film, a reflecting film, a reflection preventing film, a catalyst film and a photocatalyst film, said support being selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate film, polyethylene film, polypropylene film, polycarbonate film, acrylic film, and norbornene film, said functional fine particles having a particle diameter of 1.0 μm or less.

Claim 16 recites a functional film comprising a support and a compressed coating layer of functional fine particles compressed onto the support with a compression force of at least 44 N/mm^2 together with the support, at a temperature below a glass transition temperature of said support, said functional film being selected from the group consisting of a magnetic film, a ferromagnetic film, a dielectric film, a ferroelectric film, an electrochromic film, an electroluminescent film, an insulating film, a light-absorbing film, a light selecting absorbing film, a reflecting film, a reflection preventing film, a catalyst film and a photocatalyst film, said support being selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate film, polyethylene film, polypropylene film, polycarbonate film, acrylic film, and norbornene film, said functional fine particles having a particle diameter of 1.0 μm or less.

Claim 17 recites a conductive film comprising a support and a compressed layer of conductive fine particles formed by application onto the support, wherein said compressed layer of conductive fine particles is obtained by compressing a layer containing the conductive fine particles and optionally a binder resin in an amount of less than 3.7 parts by volume with respect to 100 parts by volume of said conductive fine particles onto the support with a compression force of at least 44 N/mm^2 together with the support, at a temperature below a glass transition temperature of said support, , said support being selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate film, polyethylene film, polypropylene film, polycarbonate film, acrylic film, and norbornene film, wherein said conductive fine particles have a particle diameter from not less than 5 nm to not more than 100 nm.

Claim 23 recites a conductive film comprising a support and a compressed coating layer of conductive fine particles on the support, wherein said compressed coating layer of conductive fine

particles is obtained by compressing a coating layer containing the conductive fine particles and optionally a binder resin in an amount of less than 3.7 parts by volume with respect to 100 parts by volume of said conductive fine particles onto the support with a compression force of at least 44 N/mm^2 together with the support, at a temperature below a glass transition temperature of said support, , said support being selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate film, polyethylene film, polypropylene film, polycarbonate film, acrylic film, and norbornene film, wherein said conductive fine particles have a particle diameter from not less than 5 nm to not more than 100 nm.

Claim 24 recites a transparent conductive film comprising a support and a compressed layer of conductive fine particles formed by application onto the support, wherein said compressed layer of conductive fine particles is obtained by compressing a layer containing the conductive fine particles and no binder resin onto the support together with the support, at a temperature below a glass transition temperature of said support, and then being impregnated with a transparent substance after compression, said support being selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate film, polyethylene film, polypropylene film, polycarbonate film, acrylic film, and norbornene film, said conductive fine particles having a particle diameter from not less than 5 nm to not more than 100 nm.

Claim 29 recites a conductive film comprising a support and a compressed layer of conductive fine particles on the support, said compressed layer obtained by compressing a layer containing the conductive fine particles that is formed by application onto the support with a compression force of at least $44N/mm^2$ together with the support, at a temperature below a glass transition temperature of said support, said support being selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate film, polyethylene film, polypropylene film, polycarbonate film, acrylic film, and norbornene film, wherein said conductive fine particles have a particle diameter from not less than 5nm to not more than 100nm.

Accordingly, the layer containing the functional (or conductive) fine particles formed on the support is *compressed together with the support*, thereby the compressed layer of the functional (or conductive) fine particles is obtained on the support.

Yokinobu et al '792, for example in the Fifteenth Embodiment, discloses a compressed layer on the base plate member (PET), which the office action alleges as corresponding to the claimed support. However, in Yokinobu et al. '792, the compression that forms the compressed layer together with the base board (polyimide) which can resist following indispensable heat-treatment at high temperature, and then, the base plate member is only laminated on the compressed layer after completing compression and heat treatment. That is, the compressed layer of Yokinobu et al. '792 **is not formed** by compression with the base plate member.

Further, the claimed compressed layer is obtained by compressing the layer containing the functional (or conductive) fine particles **together with the support** brings the criticality of the formation at a temperature below the glass transition temperature of the support.

Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness with respect to claims 1, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 29. Consequently, the present invention would not be obvious over Yukinobu et al. '192.

Accordingly, a prima facie case of obvious has not been and cannot be established. For at least the reasons above, claims 1, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 29 are therefore patentable, and withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is therefore respectfully solicited.

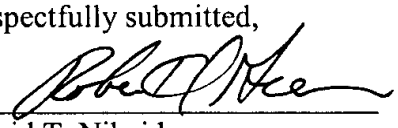
Claims 2-3, being dependent upon claim 1, claims 18, 21 and 22 depending upon claim 17, claims 25, 26 and 28 depending upon claim 24, and claims 30, 33 and 34, being dependent upon claim 29, are also allowable for the reasons above. Moreover, these claims are further distinguished by the materials recited therein, particularly within the claimed combination. Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is therefore respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, claims 1-3, 16-18, 21-26, 28-30 and 33-34 are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of these amendments and remarks is courteously solicited. If the examiner has any comments or suggestions that would place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Dated: February 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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